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Ag missions supporters meet in Madison

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Members of the Agricultural Missions Foundation (AMF), in their annual meeting February 19 at First Church, Madison, reelected Frank Prewitt of Belzoni as president and heard reports of Baptist agricultural missions' projects underway around the world.

Also reelected to serve with Prewitt were:

- David May of Starkville, vice-president.
- Joyce Watson of Terry, treasurer.
- Ed Trott of Jackson, secretary.
- Gene Triggs of Madison, chairman of the board.
- Harold Watson of Terry, project coordinator.

A trio of missionaries told of the growing influence of agricultural missions as an effective way to reach difficult areas of the world with the message of Christ.

"We are so honored to be a small part of what God is doing in the Philippines. Our 'nine-to-five' job is teaching agriculture, but our joy is church planting," said International Mission Board (IMB) missionary Steve Musen, who serves at the Mindinao Baptist Rural Life Center and the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation.

Retired missionaries Harold and Joyce Watson of Terry were instrumental in helping start the Rural Life Center many years ago, Musen pointed out.

The Asian Rural Life Development Foundation, a sister institution, is now sharing God's love throughout the

region by bringing in people for training in the latest agricultural methods and technologies, Musen said.

Jerry Bedsole, a retired veterinarian who served for decades as a missionary in Ethiopia, reported that "God used rural development as the key to get the door open," in that country, where traditional

his time in Ethiopia — one of the poorest nations in the world.

"When folks are sick and hungry, they don't have a listening ear for the Gospel. Physical needs must be met first," Bedsole cautioned.

He said that's why Baptists distributed enough grain in Ethiopia during the famine to stack a football field to the

Dennis McCall was separated from his family several years ago during tribal violence in the African nation of Burundi. The violence resulted in the deaths of thousands of people in that country and neighboring Rwanda.

McCall and his family were reunited after a few days apart, but were forced to flee Burundi as the fighting escalated.

Among the projects undertaken by AMF in 1999 and listed in the organization's annual report that was distributed at the annual meeting were:

- \$15,930 for the Manos Hermanos Agricultural Project in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- \$3,450 for the Street Children Project in Maracaibo, Venezuela.
- \$30,745 for the Nicaragua Animal Project, with an additional \$16,214 on hand for finalizing the purchase of goats.
- \$7,143 for the Nicaragua Seed Project, in which poor families were each given \$100 in seeds to start new crops.
- \$995 for the Honduras Garden Seed Project, in which AMF is partnering with the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to provide seeds for new crops.

Dates and locations for the AMF summer meeting in August and the annual meeting in February 2001 will be announced later.

For more information on AMF, contact project coordinator Harold Watson at 1153 Owens Road, Terry, MS 39170. Telephone: (601) 857-8544. E-mail: hwatso@aol.com.



AG MISSIONS LEADERS — Frank Prewitt (second from right), president of the Agricultural Missions Foundation, and Harold Watson (right) of Terry, project coordinator for the foundation, greet (from left) Dennis McCall, missionary to Tanzania; Steve Musen, missionary to Philippines; and Jerry Bedsole, retired missionary to Ethiopia, during the foundation's annual meeting February 19 at First Church, Madison. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

missionary work has not always been welcome.

"As friendships were made, we began to see hearts open to the Gospel," he said.

Bedsole said each year brought a new battle to renew his work permit. He endured two revolutions, three governments, and four years of famine during

height of a 25-story building.

Mississippi native Dennis McCall, IMB missionary to Tanzania, was also a featured speaker at the annual meeting. He is the son of John McCall, retired longtime Mississippi pastor and faculty member at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

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NOBTS building ancient manuscript collection

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—In the beginning was the Word, then the Word was written in Greek on papyrus manuscripts, then on parchments called uncial manuscripts, and then on manuscripts called minuscules (small cursive script used in medieval Greek manuscripts).

Many of these manuscripts of the written Word have been printed as facsimiles and also placed on microfilm, thus making them available for purchase by other institutions. The New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) Center for New Testament Textual Studies is one of those purchasing the microfilms.

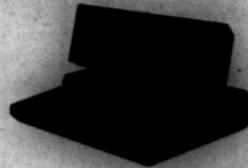
NOBTS's recent acquisition of 273 manuscripts on microfilm from the Library of Congress now brings the center's total to around 500 manuscripts, said William Warren, center director and Landrum P. Leavell II, professor of New Testament Studies. Some of these distinguished manuscripts originated from the Greek Orthodox monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai and various monasteries on Mount Athos.

In addition to these manuscripts, which help mark significant milestones in the history of the biblical text, the center provides access to another 600 manuscripts

through the International Greek New Testament Project (IGNTP). The IGNTP is an organization dedicated to producing a comprehensive compilation of the textual evidence from the manuscripts for use by New Testament scholars and Bible societies in deciding the original text.

Since 1992, Warren and other NOBTS New Testament professors, as well as doctoral and master's-level students, have been collating minuscule manuscripts of the Gospel of John, which date from 800-1500. The collations are to be included in forthcoming volumes of the International Greek New Testament Project's work.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**

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Is anyone listening in Hollywood?

The wildly-popular prime-time television game show, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?, is taking dead aim on the number-one spot for this season and spawning popular copycats like Greed, Twenty-One, and the updated \$1,064,000 Question on competing networks.

Analysts are beginning to scratch their heads in an attempt to understand why a broadcast format that dates to the dawn of the medium has suddenly sprung back to life in the new millennium.

At least one game show buff is confident he knows why this is happening.

"The game show comeback is proof-positive evidence that Americans are looking for family friendly entertainment — television shows that parents can sit down with their kids and watch together," said Steve Beverly, professor at Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Beverly is a 30-year veteran of the broadcast business and former game show host whose love of the genre prompted him to start a World Wide Web site named The Game Show Convention Center (<http://full-speed.to/gameshows>). He was interviewed for a February 15 Baptist Press article by Sara Horn.

"Look at Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? — for the last two weeks it's been new programming showing three times a week, and it has been the number one show on the air, beating out every network hands down — and it's a G-rated show.

"People like to have an experience that doesn't involve diluting their value system," Beverly pointed out.

If there is a list of the top ten diluters of values in our country today, television would inarguably be in the race for the number one spot.

"The 1990s were the decade of the 'sex-com' (sexual comedy). Every comedy on the air had some measure or element of sex, which when you think about it is really a symbol of the breakdown of values in America. I think the audience has seen enough," Beverly said.

As a measure of that sentiment, Beverly

points to his web site, which started only last July but now averages 10,000 hits (visits) each night, "and the nights when the game shows are on, it's higher."

Obviously, television viewers are desperate for decent programming. A one-night foray into the cesspool that passes for network broadcasting will reveal plot devices including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, onanism, alcoholism, illegal drug glorification, graphic sex as art, graphic murder as pornography, misogyny, and wholesale disrespect for religion — to name but a few on a slow night.

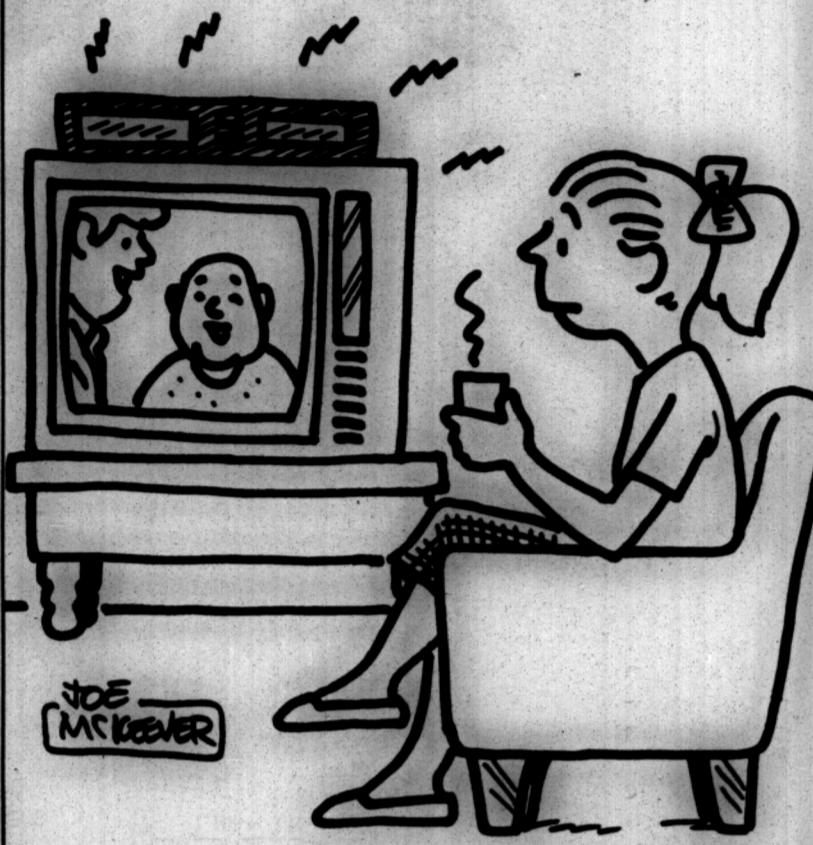
Radio and motion pictures aren't any better. Scanning the FM spectrum during a recent rush-hour drive to work, the dial stopped on two grown men (term used loosely), hosting a show on one of Jackson's most popular teen stations, discussing the virtues of defecating on other people.

The favorite to win this year's Academy Award for best motion picture, American Beauty, is a sad tale of manic depression, illegal drug use, pedophilia, and murder.

The film's chief competitor for top picture honors is The Cider House Rules, which features as its chief character an abortionist who also heads a New England orphanage. One particularly horrific scene depicts the unborn products of his grisly trade being thrown into a furnace.

Such is the sorry state of entertainment in America today. It is little wonder, then, that decent people are rushing to television

NOW, HERE TO LEAD US IN SPIRITUAL AEROBICS IS PASTOR ELROD. WELCOME TO 'REV UP!'



shows such as Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? and Touched By An Angel; to the American Family Radio network; and to movies such as Babe, Toy Story 1, and Toy Story 2.

There is a huge, underserved market for such fare out here in "flyover country," the derisive term coined by elitists in the news/entertainment media to describe the land mass between between New York and Los Angeles.

Is anyone in the Hollywood's ivory towers listening? Time will tell.

GUEST OPINION:

Stewardship: more than money

By Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

After serving as a pastor for 32 years, God has given me a new opportunity. On January 1, I began serving as the stewardship director for Mississippi Baptists. Many of my friends asked me, "Now, what will you be doing?" My assignment will be:

- to promote One-Day Stewardship Revivals in the local church.
- to develop capital fund-raising through the Challenge to Build program.
- to develop new materials for stewardship education.
- to provide resources to the local church in the area of stewardship.
- to develop and promote a new endowment to support missions inside Mississippi.

David Michel, the former stewardship director now serving as associate executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will continue his responsibilities with Cooperative Program promotion.

Please allow me to share with you a brief vision of my

belief about stewardship. Many people have the opinion that stewardship is a code word for the pastor to talk about money — a slick way to get you to come to church without telling you he is going to preach on the tithe.

The truth is that stewardship has less to do with money and more to do with how we manage our lives. I believe in the tithe. We should give 10% of our money to God through the local church.

That is where we start, but not where we stay. We should also increase our giving as God helps us to prosper. I believe we need

to give God what we owe him, but we should also do more.

A steward is someone who has been entrusted with something. You and I may think we earn our money, but actually it is a gift from God. He has allowed us to earn our pay. He has also given us time and abilities. All of this is his investment in us.

How we use our time, talents, and opportunities reveal whether we are Christian stewards or not.

A new 30-day guide to personal revival by Larry Burkett and Kay Moore (available at LifeWay Christian Resources)

defines stewardship as "deliberately using all the resources entrusted to us by God, including time, in order to fulfill his purposes for our lives."

As I move across our state, I'm going to be asking myself and others these questions: Can someone look at your checkbook and validate that you are a Christian? Can someone look at how and where you spend your time and understand that you are a Christian? Can someone look at where and how you have invested your talents and understand you are a Christian?

When you come to the end of life, which of the following statements do you think you can make?

● I wish I had given more of my money, time, and abilities to God.

● I wish I had worked harder, made more money, had a bigger house, driven a better car, spent less time with my family, and given less to God.

Stewardship is more than money. It is the whole of our life, given to God.

Baptist blankets warming war-torn Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (BP)—The 36,000 blankets Southern Baptists sent to war-ravaged Kosovo last fall are keeping people warm and daily reminding them of God's love, missionaries working in the area say.

The blankets were divided between two major cities, Pristina and Pec, where Southern Baptist workers and their Kosovar helpers distributed them to people in need, said Connie Davis, a Southern

Baptist missionary in Pristina. "In (the city of) Pristina, we donated 400 blankets to a group that has a widow assistance program, and more than 1,000 went to the unemployed families of a brick factory," Davis said. "The hospital was given blankets for every bed. Another 1,200 were distributed to a small village named Vragoli, where we were putting roofs on houses."

As many as 860,000 Kosovar Albanians fled or were expelled from the province of Yugoslavia this past spring.

The vast majority returned to find their homes destroyed by Serbs or damaged by NATO bombs.

The "Blanket Kosovo With

"Love" project began in August as the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's response to thousands of ethnic

will be a little warmer," she said. "It's a humbling experience to realize that something we would take for granted, being warm inside our homes, would be so valued by these people who have suffered so much."

In the Pec area, blankets were given to the 1,300 families already receiving food aid provided by Southern Baptists, said Southern Baptist missionary Debbie Rouse. Others were taken to a school for blind children, many of whom were separated from their families during the entire

course of the war. About 30 blankets were put to a special holiday use, doubling as costumes for children participating in a Christmas play, Rouse said.

Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, and even angels donned their makeshift robes while a Kosovar believer read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.

In addition to the blankets, Southern Baptist volunteers helped put roofs on houses damaged during the war and distributed wood-burning stoves to families without heat, Rouse said.

Workers in both Pec and Pristina partnered with the Samaritan's Purse aid group to distribute some of that group's 300,000 shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts to children in area schools and hospitals.

In the midst of all the suffering in Kosovo, God is answering prayers and revealing himself, Rouse added.

"We were working at our warehouse and heard some men screaming next door at the cement factory," she recounted. "We rushed over and saw a man had fallen in the machinery. A big piece of equipment was on his back.

"When the workers finally lifted the equipment off the man, he jumped up. He was not even hurt!"



GRATEFUL KOSOVARS — Gentiana Thaqi, 10, who lives in a village in southwestern Kosovo, carries blankets her family received from Southern Baptists as part of the "Blanket Kosovo With Love" project. Kosovars face a desperate situation, with most of their houses burned out

families during the entire

course of the war.

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THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Looking back

10 years ago

Baptist Sunday School Board trustees affirm a spirit of reconciliation at their February meeting in Nashville, including a motion of support for embattled board president Lloyd Elder. A motion to fire Elder is made and later withdrawn at the August meeting.

20 years ago

Hebron Church, Meridian, burns the note on its new three-bedroom, two-bath pastor's home — less than two years after its completion. Tommy Jones is pastor.

30 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board elects James L. Sullivan, pastor of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, as executive secretary of the state convention board. Sullivan, a native of Smith County, will succeed D. A. "Scotchie" McCall, if he accepts the post.

HEADED HOME — The Krasniqi family loads their wagon with blankets Southern Baptists gave to Kosovars whose lives have been turned upside-down by war in the Yugoslav province. Donated through the "Blanket Kosovo With Love" project, widows, orphans, unemployed families, hospitals, children in a blind school, and others received the witness to God's love. (BP photo by Steven Reese.)

BP head Hollinger to retire

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Herb Hollinger has announced his retirement as vice president for convention news from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee effective July 1. Hollinger has overseen Baptist Press, the SBC's official-daily news service, since March 1, 1991. Following his retirement, Hollinger and his wife Mary will move out West where he will work with local churches. "I felt the call of the Lord to go out and help grow churches and plant churches out West," he said. Hollinger was born June 3, 1940, into a newspaper family in Burley, Idaho. After graduating from Burley High School, he attended the University of Idaho where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1962. Hollinger later earned a master of divinity degree at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., in 1973. Hollinger, who grew up in the Mormon church, was converted to Christianity and baptized in Wichita Falls, Texas, while serving in the Air Force in 1962. He was later licensed to preach in 1970 by First Church, Burley, Idaho, and he was ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church, Graton, Calif., in 1971. His first pastorate was at First Church, Graton, from 1970-73, followed by six years of ministry at Foothills Church, Issaquah, Wash.

Hollinger has also served in several denominational positions, including editor of The California Southern Baptist newsmagazine from 1983-1991, and as director of the division of communications and editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness for the Northwest Baptist Convention from 1979-83.

Georgia Baptists digging out after tragedy

Saddleback pastor starts Internet site

FOOTHILL RANCH, Calif. (ABP) — The local ministerial association is going global via a new high-tech ministry tool being promoted by California Southern Baptist pastor Rick Warren.

Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., said he and his wife have been praying about how to use royalties from his book *The Purpose-Driven Church*, which has sold a million copies in 14 languages.

They decided to use the money to build a site on the World Wide Web, www.pastors.com, to provide free services to pastors and church leaders everywhere, he said.

Among features is free e-mail for church leaders. Ministers can receive e-mail by their name "@pastors.com," instead of a cryptic user name assigned by an Internet service provider or a less-dignified domain name such as "Yahoo." The address doesn't change when a pastor moves to another state and can be used from anywhere. E-mail can also be encrypted for use by missionaries serving in areas where security is a concern.

Pastors.com also offers clergy chat rooms and bulletin boards, placement notices and a daily devotional. Soon it will offer a church-to-church auction like the popular E-Bay, news and information and online stewardship consulting, Warren said.

CAMILLA, Ga. (BP) — Georgia Baptists in Mitchell and Grady counties will never forget the Valentine's Day tornado that took 18 lives and sent hundreds to area hospitals. It was a night of fear, of heroism, and of testing one's faith, say survivors of Georgia's deadliest tornado in 53 years.

The homes of eight members of First Church, Camilla, were heavily damaged and 20 others were moderately damaged in the storm, which hit around midnight. The homes of pastor Harris Malcom and deacon Chris Anglin, who lived in the same subdivision, were destroyed as the families huddled together in their respective hallway and bedrooms.

Malcom said the first thing he remembered was being awakened by his wife, Phyllis, who heard the increasing wind and hail batter their frame house. The first thing 16-year-old Katie heard was her mother waking her at midnight, pulling her to the hallway and saying "hit the floor."

"It sounded like 15 freight trains, it was so loud," she said.

The family grabbed a mattress from a daybed and huddled under it as the tornado hit full force, pulling the roof from the master bedroom, destroying the dining room and porch, and flooding the house with cold rain. Only the small hallway where the family was huddled was left structurally intact and dry.

"I bet we didn't have 15 seconds from when Phyllis woke me up until we ran to the hall



EMOTIONAL AFTERMATH — Phyllis Malcom (facing camera) is overcome with emotion as she hugs neighbor Cindy Anglin, who came over to visit in the aftermath of a tornado that swept through their home in Camilla, Ga., Feb. 14. Looking on is her husband, Harris Malcom (left), pastor of First Church, Camilla, Ga. The Malcoms, along with their daughter Katie, were in the home throughout the storm but were unharmed. The Anglin's home was also destroyed by the tornado. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

together," Malcom said. "It was over in 25 seconds but seemed like an eternity. In the dark we knew we had major damage because we could hear the rainwater pouring into the rooms, but we couldn't see a thing."

"I felt fear because I was afraid for my family, but I was at peace with God, if you can make sense out of that. You learn a lot about your prayer life when the walls and roof are coming apart all around you," he said.

Phyllis Malcom remembers the tense moments as the family sang "Jesus Loves Me" in the

hall when she thought "this might be our time to go."

"We just hunkered down and prayed, 'God, just keep us all safe. Take the house, it doesn't matter, just keep us safe.'"

As the storm passed, the family crept over debris into the living room but had trouble seeing with no electricity. That's when a flash of lightning gave Malcom an eerie peace he was not expecting.

Through a large hole in the roof, he could see the silhouette of a cross formed by twisted limbs of one of two large

pine trees that had crashed into the house. The limbs — twisted in the shape of a cross — were all that were left of that portion of the tree, the other limbs having been stripped away by the wind.

The family was able to flee next door to a fellow church member's house, which was less damaged. By morning, walking through the rubble of their home, they were surprised they had survived the destruction.

"We know that the mattress didn't save us. We know that the roof in that hallway didn't save us. What ultimately saved us and protected us was the hand of God," Malcom said.

After the tornado struck the Spence Community 20 miles south, Macedonia Church bivocational pastor David Pickering went out into the night to check on an elderly member of the church. Shortly after he arrived, he met Macedonia music leader and volunteer fireman Richard Powell, who also was concerned about Willie Hurst.

Eventually they found Hurst lying face down in the mud with severe injuries. He is slowly recovering from seven broken ribs and a broken jaw in a Tallahassee hospital.

Other Georgia Baptists in Grady County were not so fortunate. In nearby Cairo, Shannon Harrell, 28, and her eight-month-old daughter, Kylie Rae, were killed in the storm. Her husband Todd, a Royal Ambassador leader at Pine Level Church, and his stepdaughter Brittany, 11, survived with minor injuries.

Miss. evangelists sign statements of accountability

We, the members of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COMBE), do hereby, before the Lord and each other, affirm the following statements concerning our accountability as vocational evangelists.

I. We confess Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Lord and Savior and declare our obedience to the Great Commission, our willingness to advance its purpose, and our availability to fulfill its meaning.

II. We affirm our belief that the Bible is the infallible Word of God and is our only source of authority. As Southern Baptist evangelists, we support the 1998 Baptist Faith and Message position.

III. We assert the call of the vocational evangelist is an authentic New Testament call; thereby, we approach our vocation with the same degree of preparation and integrity as is demanded of other Christian vocational skills.

IV. We are accountable to the local church where we are members by participating in its programs and supporting it with our tithes. We will strive to conduct our ministries so as to build up the body of believers by proclaiming the great doctrines of the Scriptures.

V. We acknowledge that the conviction of sin is a work of the Holy Spirit and we will extend the invitation with integrity and without coercion or manipulation.



SIGNING THE AFFIRMATION — Officers of the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists signing the affirmations of accountability at the state evangelism conference in January were (from left) Tim Posey of Brookhaven, vice president; S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Chester Estes of Union, president; Ronnie Cottingham of Lucedale, past-president; and Steve Walker of Pinola, secretary/treasurer. (Photo by Carl M. White)

VI. Our priorities are: First, to a disciplined devotional life, insuring our personal spiritual development; second, to our families, demonstrating our commitment as companions and parents; third, to those with whom we minister, giving evidence of the credibility of our message.

VII. As servants of God, we confirm our duty to live morally clean, pure, and holy lives. What we proclaim in public, we are obligated to practice in private.

VIII. We declare to be faithful and responsible under God in reporting our finances and statistics.

IX. We need and desire to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit in order that we may be thoroughly prepared and thoroughly empowered.

X. We seek to promote evangelism with integrity through every segment of our ministries and, in so doing, we expect the same standards from those whom we serve.

For more information, contact COMBE secretary-treasurer Steve Walker at 1186 Simpson Highway 28 West, Pinola, MS 39149-9723. Telephone: (601) 847-4375.

THE FORGOTTEN VIRTUE

The great Old Testament prophet, Micah, asked, "What does the Lord require of man?" Then he answers, "To love mercy, do justly, and walk humbly with thy God." Humility is a forgotten virtue. It has long ago been placed on the shelf with other useless antique items. Our age is not marked by humility. Regardless of what sector of society you examine, we tend to place those people on the pedestal who have the least humility. Whether they be athletes or politicians, preachers or performers, we seem to elevate and exalt those who have an edge, an air, even an arrogance about them.

There was a time when a professional baseball player could hit a grand-slam homerun, win the game, come back to the dugout, and not even so much as tip his hat in acknowledgement of the great feat. Now a fellow can knock down a passed football and he will do a triple backflip and want the crowd to applaud for ten minutes.

Mohammed Ali said, "I am the greatest!" Knowingly or unknowingly, he became a role model to millions of others who had been wanting to declare that they were the best.

The great old baseball pitcher, Dizzy Dean, used to say, "If you can do it, it ain't bragging!" That may be true, but going around bragging is certainly not humility. If humility is good, if it is of God, if to be humble is a characteristic the Lord requires of us, what is it and why does it seem to be so elusive?

Let me describe humility, at least in part, and maybe we can understand it better:

• It is *unseen*. I can see talent and I can see giftedness and brilliance, but humility is unseen. It does not march up and down the halls of life in a constant parade of noise and self-acclamation. It quietly does and desires no recognition.

• It is *unsaid*. Some years ago I met a man who was truly



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

great, but I did not know it. This man had been an outstanding football player, had set all kinds of collegiate records, and had played professional football. He was a legend, but I didn't know it. When I met him, visited and talked with him, I just knew that he was a nice guy. Not once did he ever tell me how great he was! Sometime later, others began to relate the stories of the legend I had met — that he was a great running back. He was so fast and so elusive they nicknamed him "The Galloping Ghost." Though I would have been impressed, he never bothered to tell me how great he was.

Most of us are impressed with the people who are impressed with us, and we want to make sure that they know they ought to be impressed. Yet, humility goes on its way leaving those things unsaid. Can you imagine the day Jesus was interrogated by a petty politician and the Scriptures said, "he held his peace." He was just silent. He did not need to explain, or defend, or attack, or threaten — he knew who he was and was what he was, and he was truly humble.

• Whatever you have done or what you may have is *undeserved*. Regardless of your position, achievements, or prominence, it is undeserved. You may have worked hard, but who gave you the energy to do that? You may be really bright and clever, but who gave you the gray matter to think in such terms? You may be strong and overpowering, but who do you think gave you that strength? Only the Lord!

We have all known and read of gifted athletes whose careers were ended because of some quirk injury. Maybe it was someone of unusual intellect who, because of an uncontrolled hemorrhage in their brain, could no longer think, walk, or talk with the same brilliance. We are so undeserving of all the good, gracious things God has enabled us to enjoy. Humility, true humility, lives with an unchanging awareness that what we have and enjoy is undeserved.

• It is *uhurt*. No wonder relationships are in the shape

they are and people have such difficulty getting along, when they walk around with such sensitive, fragile, self-promoting egos. If you have to live defending your turf, protecting your rights, demanding your will, then you are going to experience frequent pain. Not only will you hurt, you will probably spend a great deal of time analyzing your hurts - "Who done it?" "How?" "Why?" "What can I do to make sure that they don't do it again?"

If we really want to see, understand, and follow humility, then we must look to the perfect example of Jesus, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but took upon him the form of a servant and became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross."

Amazingly, because of his humility, even when Jesus was dying he was hurt, not just by us, but more importantly, for us.

NAMB projects to feature Retton, Bernall

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The announcement of two high-profile broadcast media projects — a new children's program featuring gymnast Mary Lou Retton and a potential theatrical or television movie based on the life of Columbine High School martyr Cassie Bernall — highlighted the regular meeting of North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees Feb. 9.

Also introduced was another program for FamilyNet titled, "Open House," a talk show featuring hosts Chuck and Jennie Borsellino focusing on strengthening the home and family through the discussion of Christian truths.

In other business, trustees learned that 72 new missionaries have been appointed or approved since Jan. 1, joining more than 5,000 missionaries currently serving in the United States and Canada.

They also learned that the agency's Chaplains Commission



Retton

had endorsed 24 new chaplains and pastoral counselors, and renewed endorsements for 63 others.

The Mary Lou Retton television show — titled "Mary Lou's Flip Flop Shop" — will combine the fresh educational concept of "creative movement" for preschool children with positive Christian values.

Retton will be joined in her imaginative "Flip Flop Shop" by a cast of costumed characters, each with unique characteristics that reinforce particular values.

Also part of the team will be a group of children who will participate in the activities — making it easier for young

viewers to get out of their seats and join in.

FamilyNet will partner with nationally known producer Bill Young in bringing the program to commercial television as well.

The version of the show produced for FamilyNet audiences, however, will have an explicitly biblical ending.

The Cassie Bernall project is another unique opportunity for NAMB, one which opens the possibility for the agency to produce for the first time a feature-length movie for theatrical or television release.

NAMB reached a final verbal agreement with Brad and Misty Bernall late the previous evening for an option to acquire all motion picture and television rights to their daughter Cassie's story — described in Misty Bernall's popular book, "She Said Yes."

Cassie Bernall was one of 13 victims in the April 20, 1999, shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Reports of her answer of "Yes" when asked by her killer if she believed in God quickly became one of the most powerful stories surrounding the shootings.

Misty Bernall's book focuses on Cassie's dramatic transformation in the years and months before the shooting. It describes how God's grace and "tough love" led Cassie to Christ from a life of rebellion and involvement in the occult.



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BMDF to gather in Jackson

The twenty-fourth annual national meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship (BMDF) will be held February 24-27 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson. Among the speakers will be Mississippi lieutenant governor Amy Tuck; Jerry Rankin of Richmond, Va., president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive director-treasurer Jim Futral; Brad Creed, dean of Truett Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Randall Von Kanel, executive vice president of Global Outreach in Tupelo; James D. Waites of Laurel, president-elect of the Southern Medical Association; and Carla Street, chaplain for the Mississippi Air National Guard in Jackson. L. Graham Smith, director of the MBCB church music department, will direct the music program.

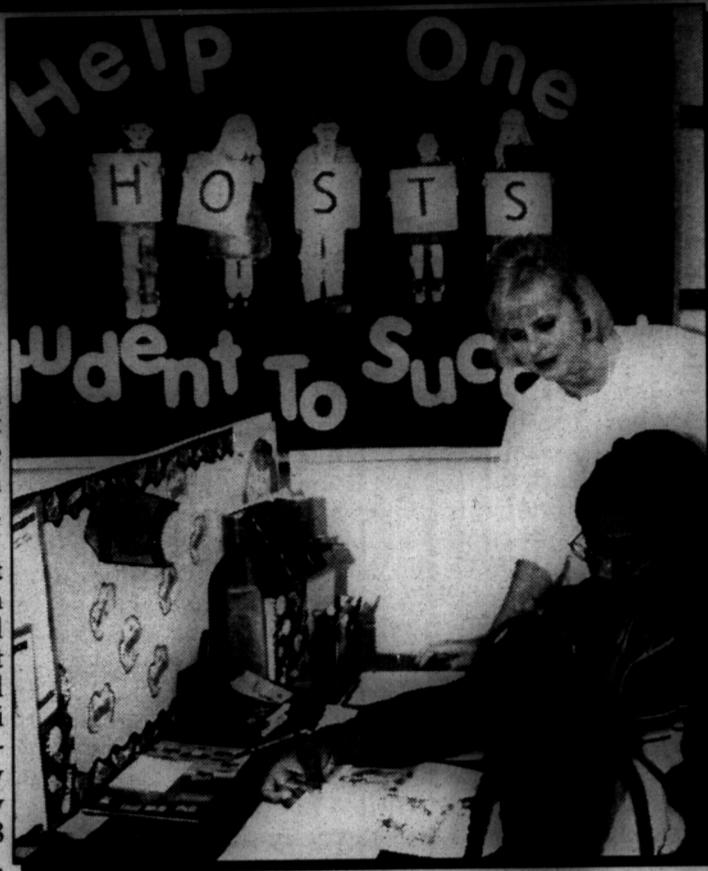
For more information on the meeting, call the Hilton Hotel at (601) 957-2800 and leave a message for Grace Atchley.

William Carey College's Spring Preview Day 2000 will be held March 18 on the Hattiesburg campus. Preview Day offers high school and transfer students the opportunity to tour the campus and dormitories, meet faculty, receive scholarship and financial aid information, and meet student organization representatives. Registration will begin in the Thomas Business Building at 9 a.m. Panel discussions begin at 9:30 a.m.; faculty advisement for students will begin at 10:15 a.m.; and complimentary lunch at 12:15 p.m. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (800) 962-5991, ext. 103 or (601) 582-6103.

Seventy-six students and faculty members from 38 Mississippi public and private universities and colleges received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature on Feb. 15 during the annual Higher Education

Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program. Among those singled out for this honor were John T. Meadors, associate professor of Christian studies and philosophy at Mississippi College (MC), and Dade Robertson Dowdle, student at MC. Dowdle is the son of Jim and Sandra Dowdle of Columbus.

The work of artist William Dunlap is on display in the Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery in Aven Hall on the Mississippi College (MC) campus. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The exhibit will run



Tanner, Brumfield, and Howard

Feb. 15-March 15. Dunlap, a native of Mississippi, is a graduate of MC. For more information, call Kenneth Quinn at (601) 925-3451.

Judith Ann Howard, HOSTS (Help One Student To Succeed) Facilitator (standing); LaShontay Brumfield, William Carey College student volunteer (middle); and Jakaara Tanner, Lillie Burney student; participate in a scheduled reading program located on site at the school. Students receive one-on-one help with reading comprehension and vocabulary. For more information about Carey's involvement with the HOSTS program, call (601) 582-6192.

Baptist to offer caregivers' seminars in March, May

Baptist Adult Day Health Services has announced three upcoming events designed to help people ministering to those caring for their elderly or dependent loved ones who require constant care.

On Saturday, March 25, Caring for a Loved One is scheduled from 9 a.m.-noon.

Speakers include Holland M. Addison of Baptist's Medical Staff, a representative from Pfizer, Inc. pharmaceutical corporation, and Marty Harper with Baptist's Pastoral Care Department. The program will be held at Baptist Adult Day Health Services — Northtown, 6250 Old Canton Road, Jackson.

In May, two programs entitled Helping the Overwhelmed Caregiver are planned for pastors and church staff members.



Addison

The first program is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Baptist Adult Day Health Services — Trace Pointe, 503 E. Northside Drive, Clinton.

A second program is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, at Baptist Adult Day Health Services — Northtown, 6250 Old Canton Road, Jackson.

Speakers will be Ron Mumbower and Charles Boudreaux, members of the counseling staff of First Church, Jackson. Mumbower holds degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Oklahoma Baptist University.



Boudreaux

Boudreaux holds degrees from New Orleans Seminary and Mississippi College.

"There are so many families out there in a crisis situation who need support," said Dixie Myrick, Administrator of Baptist Adult Day Health Services — Northtown. "Caregivers, pastors, and staff members can benefit

from what they'll learn during these sessions, as well as finding out what community resources are available to help them."

Participants may attend either seminar. There is no charge, and lunch will be provided. To register, or to obtain more information, call (800) 948-6262.

Here's a New D.Min. in Expository Preaching that fits your ministry schedule!

The School of Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary now offers a Doctor of Ministry degree in Expository Preaching with these features:

Focused: Four foundational seminars relate to preaching, theology, Old Testament, and New Testament.	 James Merritt
Practical: Eight sermons are videotaped and critiqued by faculty.	 Jerry Vines
Convenient: Only five weeks of on-campus time during the three-year degree program.	 Hershael York
Relevant: Seminars taught by Southern's outstanding full-time faculty, as well as experienced pastors such as James Merritt, Jerry Vines, and Alisatir Begg.	 Danny Akin
Join us in this challenging new program. Applications are now being accepted for the June 2000 class.	

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSETOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 24, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Christian Performing Arts Festival with Church Recreation and Youth Leader Conferences

March 24-25, 2000
First Baptist Church
Brandon • Cost \$25



For more information, contact
Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
(601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

Annual Missions Celebration

"Whatever It Takes"

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

March 17 - 18, 2000

SCHEDULE

Friday

1:15 p.m. Session 1 Whatever It Takes . . .
To Be Like You, Lord
5:00 p.m. Dinner for parents of
missionaries and members of
the state WMU Executive Board
6:15 p.m. Session 2 Whatever It Takes . . .
To Be Strong In the Lord

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board
Members Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Session 3 Whatever It Takes . . .
To Take the Stand

PARADE OF MISSIONS ORGANIZATIONS:

All Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens
members are invited to participate

Noon

Lunch for program participants
and missionaries (retired and
state side assigned)

Contact WMU for more info: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.



Life is not made up of
the things we own.

Luke 12:15

2 great dates for OLDER CHILDREN'S RETREATS 2000

(completed grades 4-6)

July 6-8

Central Hills
Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko
Cost: \$80

July 20-22

Gulfshore
Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian
Cost: \$78

Thursday 1:30 p.m. - Saturday noon
Sponsored by the
Sunday School Department
For info call us at 1-800-748-1651 or
(601)968-3800

Keyboard Workshop 2000



for Church Organists and Pianists

March 10-11, 2000
FBC, Clinton

From 1 p.m. on the 10th until 1 p.m. on the 11th

Purpose: to provide skill development in service playing and
accompanying for church organists and pianists
who serve as worship leaders.

Special Guests

Organ

Ron Boud
Professor of Music and Organist
Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

These gentlemen are composers and arrangers of church music
for organists and pianists. Their music will be available for purchase.

Put this workshop on your "to do" list for 2000.
If you have questions, call the Church Music Department
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3272, or fax us at 601-968-3928.

Piano

Don Phillips
Minister of Music
FBC, Franklin, Ky.

The Monarch Colony proudly presents
"Butterflies are free and so are we!"

If the Son
sets us free,
we are
free indeed
John 8:36



You are cordially invited
to flutter over to
Camp Garaywa to attend the

Mississippi Baptist
Secretaries Conference

April 10-11, 2000

For more information, please contact the
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Mississippi Baptist Camps 2000 Summer Staff Recruiting Schedule

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. Applications are being accepted for three different camps. Interviews will be conducted at various college campuses across Mississippi during February and March. The recruiting schedule is given below.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

*Royal Ambassador/Challenger
Summer Camp*

Central Hills begins its summer program with lifeguard training for a select group on May 22. Staff Orientation will be from May 28 - June 2. Camp sessions begin June 12. There will be six weeks of Resident Camp for boys entering grades 4 - 12. There will be two Lad/Dad Weekend Camps. Each week begins on Sunday evening and concludes on Friday or Saturday afternoon.

Available positions include counselor, operations worker, and activity instructor. Activity instructor positions are: horseback riding, archery, riflery, handicrafts, camp craft skills, swimming, canoeing and a low-elements adventure/challenge ropes course.

Camp Garaywa

Girls Missions Camp

What a wonderful opportunity for college age females with a heart for missions and working with children and youth.

Camp Garaywa begins its summer camping program on May 30 and ends on July 29. This includes the staff orientation and eight weeks of missions camping for 4th - 6th grade girls and one week for 7th - 12th grade girls.

Female cabin leaders are responsible for a cabin of girls each week. They plan and participate in Bible studies, cabin devotions, recreation, worship, campfires, special events, music, drama, etc.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

*Senior Adult, Single, Youth,
Music, Family
and Adult Leadership Conferences*

The assembly begins its summer program May 13, and continues until August 15.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development.

Date	College Campus	Time	Central Hills	Garaywa	Gulfshore
Thursday, Feb. 24	Northeast Miss. Community College, <i>BSU</i> Miss. University For Women, <i>BSU Center</i>	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	x	x	
Monday, Feb. 28	Hinds Community College, <i>BSU Center</i> Miss. College, <i>Rogers Student Center</i>	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 1:30-6:00 p.m.	x	x	x
Tuesday, Feb. 29	Co-Lin Community College, <i>BSU Center</i> East Central Community College, <i>BSU</i>	10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.	x	x	
Wednesday, Mar. 1	Meridian Community College, <i>Meridian Hall</i> Jones County Junior College, <i>BSU</i>	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 2:00-4:30 p.m.	x	x	
Thursday, Mar. 2	William Carey College, <i>Crawford Hall BSU</i> University of Southern Miss., <i>BSU Center</i>	10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1:00-4:00 p.m.	x	x	x
Wednesday, Mar. 15	Co-Lin Community College, <i>BSU Center</i> Miss. College <i>BSU Center</i>	9:00-10:30 a.m. 3:00-6:00 p.m.		x	
Thursday, Mar. 23	Pearl River Community College, <i>BSU</i>	11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.		x	



Sunday School Teachers Convention

Date: April 14-15, 2000

Time: Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon

Schedule:

Friday:	6:30-7:00 p.m.	General Session
	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions. Age group sessions include preschool, children, youth, young adult (18-24), middle adult (25-54) and senior adult (55 and up)

Saturday:	9:00-10:15 a.m.	Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions
	10:15-10:45 a.m.	Break
	10:45-noon	Age group, SS Directors and pastor/staff sessions

For more information, call the State Sunday School Department.
1-800-748-1651 or (601) 968-3800

Gulfshore Youth Weeks

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian - May 29 - June 23, 2000

Gulfshore Youth Weeks are a 4-1/2 day camp experience designed to give youth, who have completed grades 7 through 12, opportunities for authentic worship, Bible Study and life application.

The worship experiences will point youth to God while creating genuine Christian community. Youth are encouraged to start and build relationships with God and others through family group and recreation

times. They are also equipped with vital tools needed to make a difference for Christ in their churches, schools and communities.

Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Registration for Mississippi churches begins March 1, 2000. Out-of-state churches can register beginning April 15, 2000. Program fees, meals and accommodations total just \$138 per camper.

For more information:
Gulfshore Youth Weeks program information, faculty information and applications - Mark Lott 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3295.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly reservations - Frank Simmons 228-452-7261

Schedule

CAMP DATE	CAMP PASTOR	CAMP MUSICIANS
May 29 - June 2	Gary Permenter, Columbus	Praise Band
June 2 - 6	Greg Warnock, FBC, Brookhaven	Praise Band
June 6 - 10	Jon Daniel, Monticello BC	Praise Band
June 10 - 14	Michael Kelly, FBC, Booneville	Praise Band
June 15 - 19	Don Gann, Wynndale BC, Terry	Praise Band
June 19 - 23	Ken Hester, FBC, Pontotoc	Praise Band

2000 State Bible Drills

4/3	Senatobia, FBC Gulfport, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
4/4	Greenwood, FBC Brookhaven, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
4/6	Tupelo, FBC <i>(Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union and Tishomingo Assoc.)</i> Tupelo, Calvary BC	2:30-4:30 p.m. <i>(Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union and Tishomingo Assoc.)</i>
4/7	Starkville, FBC <i>(Churches outside Golden Triangle and Winston Assoc.)</i> Starkville, Calvary BC	2:30-4:30 p.m. <i>(Churches inside Golden Triangle and Winston Assoc.)</i>
4/8	Clinton, FBC Clinton, FBC <i>(Churches inside Metro, Rankin & Warren Assoc.)</i> Brandon, FBC <i>(Churches outside Metro, Rankin & Warren Assoc.)</i>	9:30-11:30 a.m. 1-3 p.m.
4/10	Meridian, Poplar Spgs. Dr. BC Petal, Petal-Harvey BC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
4/11	Laurel, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m.

2000 Selection Tournaments

4/15	Alta Woods BC	10 a.m.
	Youth Speakers	10 a.m.
	Youth Jr. High	1 p.m.
	Scholarship	2 p.m.

The Children's and Youth Church Paks have been mailed to the churches and the associations. If you have not received yours, please contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-968-3800.

Marriage Conferences

● Marriage Enrichment

April 28-29
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison
Ron Mumbower, Family Counselor
FBC, Jackson
Call 601-853-1090 for more information.

● Toward a Growing Marriage

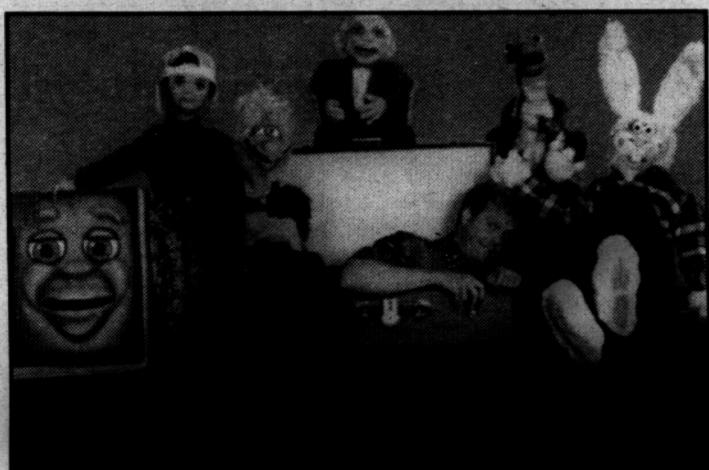
September 22-23
Gary Chapman
author of *Five Love Languages*
First Baptist Church, Gulfport
Call 228-863-8501 for more information.

Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more information: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

Family Week at Gulfshore

July 3-7

"Families Finding Faith"



John Yates, Clinton

Conferences:

- **TeamKids** (preschool and children)
- **Mini-Centrifuge** - Harvey Ellis, MBCB Ronney Joe Webb, Laurel
- **Couples** - led by Dr. and Mrs. Chuck Kelley president, New Orleans Baptist Seminary
- **Single-Parenting** - led by James Haynes Biloxi
- **Power of Faith** - led by Bill Causey Clinton

Register after March 1 - Deposit: \$40 per person or \$80 per family

Call 1-228-452-7261 to make reservations.
Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more info: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

Spring Family Life Conferences

Thursday, March 2

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Brookhaven
Single Adults - Steve Bublitz, Hattiesburg
Senior Adults - Horace Kerr, Brandon
Youth - Scott Wilson, Vicksburg
Marriage - Dot Day, Hazlehurst
(Sponsored by Lincoln Association and MBCB; for more info call 601-833-8111)

Monday, March 27

Spring Hill Baptist Church, Oakland
Single Adults - Glenn Shows, MBCB
Parenting - Ron Mumbower, FBC, Jackson
(Sponsored by North Central Association and MBCB; for more info call 662-226-5071)

Thursday, April 20

Rocky Creek Baptist Church, Lucedale
Single Adults - Glenn Shows, MBCB
Senior Adults - Ken Hopkin, Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
Parenting - Don Hicks, MBCB
Marriage - Carl Dickerson, Hattiesburg
(Sponsored by Greene Association and MBCB; for more info call 601-947-4981)

Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more information: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

2000 Spring Event Rally

Saturday, February 26

Neshoba Associational Center, Philadelphia
(Directions/motels - call 601-656-1820)
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Cost \$5 at the door

8:30	Registration
9:00	Rally with music, games, challenge message by Wayne Pinkerton, guitarist and minister of singles/adm., FBC, Greenville
10:00	Refreshments
10:30	Conferences <i>Self-Esteem</i> Wayne Pinkerton <i>Hugs, Tugs and Giggles</i> Jan Halford, Education/Singles, Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson <i>Single Parenting</i> Dot Day, Family/Marriage counselor, Hazlehurst

Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more information: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

International Conference

Saturday, June 10

International Family Soccer Clinic

Food and other events

Atkins Village, Starkville

(Sponsored by BSU, Miss. State University, Golden Triangle Association, and MBCB)

Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more information: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

Pray this day for...

February 25-March 9, 2000

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"The man who mobilizes the church to pray will make the biggest contribution to world evangelism in history."

- Andrew Murray

Pray for a Djimini chief of Cote D'Ivoire who has given his life to Christ. His fellow villagers follow a world religion. As a result of his conversion, his wife has filed for divorce. Pray that his wife and others will be moved by the power of God's love.

Week of Prayer for North American Missions (WMU Emphasis). Pray for our home missionaries daily. As you pray, consider what you will give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Our gifts help them to continue their work throughout North America.

Pray for ISC worker Lin Pinter who is doing Bible "storying" in Kabiye of Togo and Benin. A man approached Lin and said, "I am a fetisher (one who makes sacrifices to appease the spirits), but now I have decided to follow this God that you are teaching about."

For: (1) Baptist Building staff Planning Week (6-10), (2) Give thanks that God's Word continues to reach those previously unreached in Algeria. New praise, prayer and Bible study groups continue to be started among the Kabyle Berbers people group.

For: (1) Leader Lab for Ministers of Education, Eagle Ridge Conf. Center, Raymond (Sunday School), (2) Pray that hundred of Christian teachers will volunteer to teach English in China next summer since this is also a good way to share Christ.

On Jan. 28, missionaries Larry and Terry Singletary were forced to take refuge in their home in Moroto, Uganda, as a battle of Karamajong subtribes took place in their front yard. Pray for the Singletary family and for the salvation of the Karamajong people.

Pray for a work permit to be issued for missionary Tracy Avery in South Africa. Tracy's permit renewal was denied in August of 1999 and has been in an appeal process since. Tracy is in a key role as treasurer for a large number of missionaries in South Africa.

Pray for the new work that has been started in several places in the province where the Chuabo people of Mozambique live. Pray that strong leaders will come out of these congregations.

Pray for the school of nursing at Bangalore Baptist hospital in India. They have received accreditation, but for four years, they have not been able to get state government permission to have the school which affects registration of their upcoming graduates.

Patty Lane of Dallas, Texas, is a church planter strategist. She works as a consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. She is working with different cultures. Pray for American Indian work, which is beginning in Amarillo.

For: (1) People on Mission Celebration, FBC, Clinton (Witness Team), (2) Pray for President Bakili Muluzi of Malawi.

For: (1) State Youth Four Part Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson (Church Music), (2) Pray that the Word will take deep root in the hearts of the Karamajong people in Uganda.

25

26

The Pacaya Volcano 18 miles south of Guatemala City erupted Jan. 16. No human casualties have been reported but several villages have been evacuated. There will be a good bit of crop loss and property damage. Pray for those affected.

APRIL

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

03-89 MISS ALICIA RACEY
Casilla 50-D, Temuco, CHILE
Parents: Michael & Annette, General Evangelism

04-83 MISS JENNIFER JOHNSTON
Caixa Postal 2053 Jockey, 64.049-970 Teresina, PI, BRAZIL
Parents: Vincent & Sharon, Conference/Encampment

9-91 MR. JOHN CURTIS
B.P. 130, Tenkodogo, BURKINA FASO
Parents: Clifton & Cathy, Agriculture

15-81 MR. JOEL GLAZE
Mississippi College, Box 5944, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: David & Gloria, Media Promotion, SERVE IN WESTERN S. AMERICA

15-81 MR. SETH GLAZE
Mississippi College, Box 5377, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: David & Gloria, Media Promotion, SERVE IN WESTERN S. AMERICA

17-80 MR. JACOB WALLACE
William Carey College, Box 704, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499
Parents: Karl & Peggy, Mission Administration, SERVE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

19-80 MISS BETHANY PEVEY
Delta State University, Cleveland, MS 38732
Parents: Frank, Jr. & Jerry Anne, Mission Administration, SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA

21-82 MR. JOEL COLLINS
9707 SW 57th Street, Cooper City, FL 33328
Parents: Charles & Suzanne, Business Management, SERVE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

24-83 MR. JUSTIN MARTIN
C.C. 637, 5500 Mendoza, ARGENTINA
Parents: Asbury, Jr. & Hope, General Evangelism

24-90 MISS KIMBERLY CARLTON
P O Box 1559, Gaborone, BOTSWANA
Parents: David & Pamela, Theological Education by Exten.

28-87 MISS REBEKAH RAY
2204 North 10th, Monroe, LA 71201
Parents: Mike & Linda, Religious Education, SERVE IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

29-93 MR. CHRISTOPHER CARLTON
P O Box 1559, Gaborone, BOTSWANA
Parents: David & Pamela, Theological Education by Exten.



Witnessing Through Media

PURPOSE:

The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN:

May 5-6, 2000—Awards Banquet on Friday, May 5, 7-9 p.m.

WHERE:

Workshops on Saturday, May 6, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, 7469 Old Canton Road, Madison

Entries must be in the office of Broadcast Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 15, 2000, 4:45 p.m. Contact Broadcast Services for more info: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

ENTRY FORM

The following information must be included with all entries:

Entry Title _____
Category Name _____
Division I or II _____ Original Running Time _____
Name of Entrant (LAB, Church, etc.) _____
Contact Person _____ Position _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Office phone _____ Home phone _____
SHOULD YOU WIN...give exact name of organization as you want it to appear on award:

Date Entry Shown: _____
Statement of Purpose:

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HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Armstrong, Aldridge, and Norman

Derma Church, Derma, licensed Kenneth Armstrong (above, left) and Jay Norman (right) to the ministry. Pictured with Armstrong and Norman is Chris Aldridge, pastor.

Pauline Moore (right) was recognized in the morning worship service on Feb. 6 for 25 years as organist at First Church, Kosciusko. Following the evening service she was honored with a reception in the church parlor. Pictured with



The Moores

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PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED Prefer someone beginning seminary this summer or fall. Hillcrest Baptist Church, Franklinton, La. Phone 504-839-4703.

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SEEKING FULL TIME PASTOR. Seasonal San Juan Mt. community. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 519, Lake City, CO 81235.

First Church, Maben, recently recognized Nick Lewis (right) for 36 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. While in the hospital in 1972, he was able to maintain his attendance record with his teacher having Sunday School in his hospital room. Pictured with Lewis is Andrew G. Pittman, pastor.

Liberty Church, Newton, recently ordained Ray Boutwell as deacon. J. B. Costilow is pastor.

Miller Eichelberger Jr. was licensed to preach at Calvary Church in Petal on Feb. 13. David Shofner is pastor.

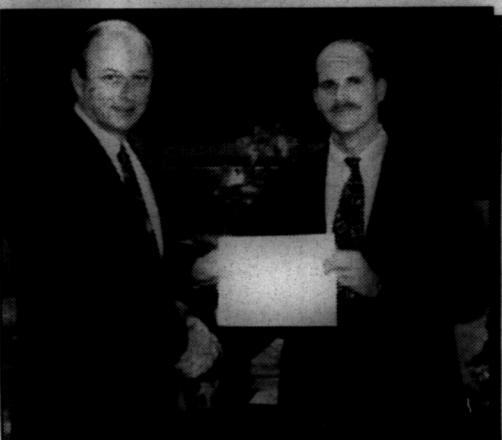
Gary Wayne Garrison, son of A. R. Garrison, pastor of Belmont Road Church, Sardis, was licensed to the ministry at the church, Sunday, Feb. 13. He



Pittman and Lewis

also preached on that Sunday. Garrison is available for supply preaching, for devotions, and helping with youth programs. He can be contacted at (601) 487-2956.

Military Church, Sumrall, held deacon ordination for Micah Miller on Nov. 21. Miller (right) was ordained by Mike Aultman, pastor (left).



Aultman and Miller



Hardy and Dowdy

Faith Church, Benton, Tippah Association, ordained Scott Hardy to the ministry on Feb. 6. Hardy is youth minister at Faith Church and a student at Blue Mountain College. Pictured (from left) are Hardy and W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

Lottie Moon goal exceeded

First Church, Terry, exceeded its goal of \$12,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to support international missions by giving a final total of \$12,018.33. John H. Pace Jr., is pastor.

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PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR AND full-time Youth Director needed at Trinity Baptist Church of Rankin county. Please contact Rev. Kenny Goff at 601-939-6622 for more information if interested.

STAFF CHANGES

Pleasant Ridge Church, Union County Association, has called Don Wilson as pastor. Wilson moved to Pleasant Ridge Church from Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc Association.



Wilson

First Church, Ridgeland, has called Grant Arinder as pastor effective Feb. 6. He previously served at First Church, Belzoni. Arinder is a graduate of Mississippi State.



Arinder

University and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. In 1999, he completed his doctorate of ministry at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. A reception for Arinder and his family will be held Feb. 27 from 2:30-4 p.m. in the family life center.

First Church, Lumberton, has called Norman Robinson Jr. as pastor. His previous place of service was DeSoto Church, Clarke Association. Robinson received his training at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pine Grove Church, Quitman, has called William Dale Eakes as pastor effective Feb. 15. Eakes attended William Carey College and is presently attending the Clinton, Miss., branch of New Orleans Seminary.

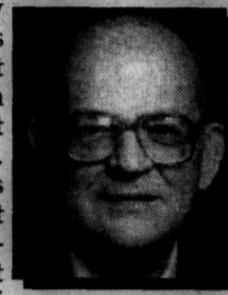
Clyde C. Bryan, former pastor, dies

Clyde Cullum Bryan, 82, died of complications from a stroke Feb. 9 in Hospice Ministries. Services were held Feb. 10 at First Church, Jackson, with burial in Parkway Memorial Cemetery.

Bryan was a native of McMinnville, Tenn. He was educated at Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was pastor of several churches in Tennessee before moving to First Church, Hattiesburg, where he pastored

for 16 years and built the present church building.

Bryan was church architectural consultant who assisted many churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. He served as consultant for the present Mississippi Baptist Building.



Bryan

In 1966, he moved to Jackson and established Bryan Tours, which has provided services for many of the world's missionaries and mission projects of Baptist and other denominations.

Survivors include: wife, Josephine; daughter, Becky Allen of Carrollton, Ga.; son, William Bryan, Jackson; brother, Clarence Bryan of Kingsport, Tenn.; and four grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Hospice Ministries or the American Diabetes Association of Mississippi.

Revival date

Tuscumbia, Booneville: March 4-6; Ronnie Owens, Tazwell, Tenn., evangelist; Jason Pilcher, pastor.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

The children at the Childcare Center of First Church, Terry, recently raised \$1,690 during their annual "Trike-a-Thon" to support the ministry and work of St. Jude's Cancer Hospital. John H. Pace Jr., is pastor.

Right to Life of Jackson Spring Banquet will be held at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, on March 6. Fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the program at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Frank Pavone, national director, Priests for Life. For cost of tickets and further information, call (601) 956-8636.

Magnificent Mondays will be held in March at Magnolia Church, Laurel. March 6, Jim Futral, message, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); and Graham Smith, music, church music director, MBCB; March 13; Stan Buckley, message, Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, and Larry Black, music, First Church, Jackson; March 20, Rick Ousley, message, The

Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham, Ala., and Allen Harris, music, North Oxford Church, Oxford; and March 27, Dean Register, message, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, and Randy Cuchens, music, First Church, Newton.

The Martins will be in concert at Broadmoor Church, Madison, on March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Call the Worship Ministry Office at (601) 898-4932 for ticket information.

Cedar Grove Church, Marion County, will celebrate the completion of their sanctuary remodeling on March 5 at 11 a.m.

The Church Organ Group and Ridgecrest Church, Madison, will present Thomas Hazleton in concert at Ridgecrest Church, Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. The Thomas Hazleton Workshop will also be held at Ridgecrest Church on Feb. 26, beginning at 9 a.m. For more information concerning the concert and workshop, contact Patsy Simpson at (601) 956-9047 or toll free (800) 783-3056.

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BOOK COMPLETED

Editor:

I have just completed a book, Mississippi Ozarks, which is a history of Concord Baptist Church and the Dry Creek, Mississippi community. The 315-page book contains a brief biography of all 26 pastors of Concord with pictures of several of the pastors. It would be most useful to anyone researching those pastors or who have roots in Tippah, Prentiss, Union, and Alcorn counties.

If you think the book would be helpful to churches researching these pastors I would appreciate its mention in The Baptist Record. I have written two other books which have been accepted in the Mississippi State Archives collection of books. Both are church histories.

Reservations for the book are now being accepted. Cost: \$25 S&H \$4. The book will be available in about two weeks — around March 1, 2000.

Robert E. Walker
791 CR 633
Booneville, MS 38829

INTERESTING EDITORIAL

Editor:

Your editorial on "Where's the money?" (Feb. 10 issue, regarding the money state government gets from legalized gambling) was very interesting to me, especially since only a short time ago a letter to the editor to the Laurel Leader Call by me was printed. Needless to say

that you and I seem to be on the same track concerning this matter. I even sent a copy to each of my local state representatives, who by the way are all Baptist and I have received no response.

The problem we have seems to be more of unconcern, or the attitude that there's nothing that can be done anyway, and of course, accountability. I believe that if the pastors spoke out more on this and other pressing social ills that plague our society, and if the church members were held more accountable for their actions, and all of us would hold our state and local public officials accountable for their conduct, in and out of office, then we will see a change.

There is no humility within the church anymore. The attitude is that it's the times that we live in. My answer to that is simply this: Would you let your child drown without trying to save him, would you stand on a busy highway with oncoming traffic and not remove yourself? I think not. Then why not speak out now? It's not too late.

Thomas F. Williams
Laurel

PRAY FOR TEENS

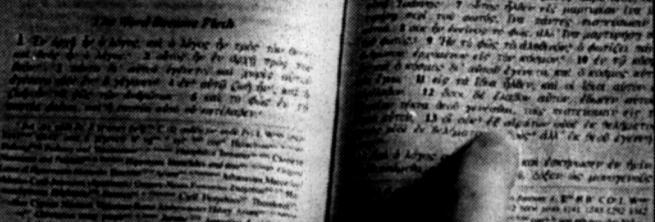
Editor:

As I read the "Facing up to a difficult moral issue" editorial in the Feb. 3 issue, I was reminded to pray for our teenagers. The pressures on them to drink with the crowd are getting worse daily.

Sidney Cohen, researcher and

We're serious about the Word.

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author of over 30 books on drug abuse, describes alcohol as the most dangerous drug on earth.

The U. S. Department of Public Health and Human Services stated that in 1996 alone, drunk drivers injured more than one million people. In that same year, 17,126 people lost their lives in alcohol-related traffic accidents.

The National Association For Children of Alcoholics indicates that alcohol is a key factor in 68% of manslaughters and 54% of murders.

Alcohol claims life after life and I agree with you, we as parents and grandparents should set the example. It is a tragedy to call ourselves Christians and drink.

Mrs. Juarez Johnson Sr.
Jackson

WITNESS TO EMMAUS

Editor:

It is with great sadness that I read recent articles concerning Tres Dias which contained references to the Emmaus and Chrysalis programs run by the Methodist Church. While I cannot testify to the Tres Dias program, I can testify to the Emmaus program. Unlike the writer of the articles, who can only report what he has heard, I have participated in the Emmaus (adult), Crossroads (college age), and Chrysalis (youth who have completed ninth grade) programs.

I can witness to the courage of some of the local youth who came back from that Chrysalis program. These youth were so convicted to be a witness on their school campus that they decided to pray before school every morning. This group has grown to about 60 youth. Not only that, but because of the courage of this group, a similar group is forming in the junior high. The students who ride school buses and could not get to school early enough to meet with the others started their own prayer group.

In closing, let me say that Emmaus is not for everyone. As with all things, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in all decisions, but do not put down a program just because it is not Southern Baptist.

Vic Scott
Roxie

Michael's Watch

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." - Jude 1:9

Michael's Watch is a support group whose sole purpose and mission is to offer emotional, mental, and spiritual support for those whose lives have been affected by family members or loved ones involved in the homosexual lifestyle.

Michael's Watch Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by calling **First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi** at (662) 773-6246.

CURSILLO BROUGHT JOY

Editor:

I read with interest your article dated January 13, "NAMB official cautions churches to be wary." I attended a Cursillo weekend in February 1986. Cursillo brought much joy to my faith! Cursillo has continued to be a great factor in my personal spiritual walk with Christ.

Cursillo is a Christ-centered retreat. Each day begins and ends in the chapel. There is a daily observance of Holy Communion/Last Supper. Pilgrims are treated "first class." They are treated as the guests at the banquet table. The pilgrims hear 15 talks on basic Christianity during the retreat. Some talks are given by lay persons and some talks are given by ministers (there are always two or three ministers on each staff.)

Cursillo is a gift that you give to yourself. I urge you to attend a Cursillo or similar retreat and re-evaluate from your own personal experience.

Susan Ingram
Jackson

GOODYEAR MOVING

Editor:

Goodyear Church, Picayune, has sold the building at 500 North Beech Street, where the church has worshipped since 1951. This was a three-year plus venture in decisions and long discussions; the final vote to sell and relocate was 95% positive.

The church had purchased 10.16 acres of prime property two-and-a-half years prior to the final sale. This was agreed on by a large majority and when the land was located, the cost was \$100,000. The church paid it off in seven months.

Our new address is 2710 Hwy 43 South Picayune, MS 39466. All mail to Goodyear Church should have the new address. We will be building a complete new campus. The building should be begun in three to six weeks. It will take approximately 18 months to complete the entire structure. We are currently meeting in the National Guard Armory for our services.

Arlis F. Grice, pastor
Goodyear Church, Picayune



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

THANKS FOR AUTO

Editor:

I am writing to express my family's gratitude for the ministry of the Macedonian Call Foundation of Mississippi. Without a service like this, missionaries on furlough would be forced to buy a car and then try to sell it before returning to the field. Most of the time this involves a significant financial loss for the missionary. So a big "Thanks!" and "God Bless You!" to the Mississippi Baptists who are volunteering their time, energy, and resources to serve missionaries through Macedonian Call.

Stanley Clark
IMB missionary - Argentina

Conference centers revitalization approved

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The direction and concepts outlined in a 15-year revitalization plan for Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers have been approved by trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In their semiannual meeting at the agency's Nashville, Tenn., headquarters Feb. 7-8, trustees received a report citing the condition of facilities, the ministry of the conference centers, and projections for the future based on independent market research.

Among facts about the physical condition of the centers were observations that current conditions do not represent the quality and standards needed to serve and minister effectively. No new accommodations have been constructed at either conference center in 27 years, the report continued, and deferred maintenance has left deteriorated facilities and less than suitable environments.

Mike Arrington, vice president of LifeWay's corporate affairs division, said revitalization of the centers is a key "next step in LifeWay's total ministry as we move into the 21st century."

The strategic plan calls for incremental site development with review of results prior to subsequent steps of development. The first step would be \$8.5 million in construction at Ridgecrest in 2000-2001, followed by a \$7.8 million project at Glorieta in 2001-2002. Requests for funding will be presented to trustees for review and budget approval prior to each step.

Arrington said a 10-year fund-raising plan projected by LifeWay's capital resource development department would



TRUSTEE LEADERS — Bruce Robinson (second from right), senior pastor of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville, Tenn., was elected chairman of trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources on Feb. 7. Phil Neighbors (right), pastor of Valley Church, Bakersfield, Calif., was elected secretary. Ben Rowell (second from left), pastor of First Church, Rogers, Ark., was re-elected vice-chairman and chairman of the trustee executive committee. They are pictured with LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. (left). (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

opportunity, but one which will require significant facilities upgrades and new development, the report indicated. Research showed 60% of adults interviewed want standard lodging and amenities equivalent to hotels such as Hampton Inns; 35% want economy housing offered by Motel 6 and others; and 5% want premium accommodations. Arrington said the best of current conference center lodging is equivalent to economy commercial housing.

Among requirements cited for serving adult conferences with quality are multiple medium-sized conference rooms, many small break-out rooms, state-of-the-art audiovisual and communications equipment, exhibit space, banquet space and varied food options, indoor/outdoor recreation, airport access, on-site transportation for handicapped persons, and commercial quality lodging. He emphasized that youth conferencing will continue to be provided.

Arrington said a master site plan to be developed will identify needed new facilities, refurbishing some existing facilities to meet "economy" needs, removal of some structures and conference space provided from a combination of remodeled existing space, and new space for optimum configuration of room sizes and types.

The master plan will be presented to trustees for consideration at their September meeting.

Trustees also approved a 3.5% rate increase for conference centers from Oct. 1, 2002 through Sept. 30, 2003. The projection of future rates allows the conference centers to work in advance with meeting planners on future events.

'Helping people' LifeWay ministry, president says

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Any solutions to life's problems offered by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention "must be rooted in the Savior and based upon his Word," President James T. Draper Jr. told the agency's trustees Feb. 7.

"At LifeWay, our ministry is helping people in a real and legitimate way," he continued. In reporting to trustees during their semiannual meeting, Draper offered examples of biblical solutions LifeWay is providing today:

♦ Electronic resources — He cited the LifeWay online filtered Internet service that "provides access to the many good things on the Internet while filtering out pornography, violence, sexual exploitation, and other areas that should never be brought into our homes."

♦ Conference centers — "With the pace of change continuing to increase, the need has never been greater for places where people can get away from their busy lives to grow closer to God," Draper said. "It's a ministry we have to have."

♦ Sunday School for a New Century — Draper said Southern Baptist churches have received preview packs about the new Bible study materials,

and sample lessons are available on an Internet site, lifewaysundayschool.com.

"We believe these resources can make a profound spiritual impact in people's lives," he said.

♦ FAITH — The number of

churches involved in the FAITH Sunday School evangelism strategy has now topped 3,600.

♦ How Now Shall We Live? — LifeWay's discipleship and family group will release on

March 1 an eight-session, interactive course by Charles Colson.

♦ Bible translation — Progress continues on the LifeWay-sponsored Holman Christian Standard translation of the Bible.



Ron McElroy, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

While the advice you gave the parent of the 10 year old bed-wetter was okay, I'd like to share what my parents did when I began wetting the bed as an older child. They set their alarm for four hours after I went to sleep, woke me, told me to go to the bathroom, and sent me back to bed. They did this for about two and one-half weeks. After that I woke up on my own. Please pass this along.

One great concept behind your story is how the whole family was involved in solving this problem. What a testimony of Christian love — if one part of the body hurts the

entire body is affected (Rom: 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27). You are definitely blessed. Just think: your parents were willing to change their sleep habits to help their child develop discipline. Oh, for more examples like them!

My teenager is a terrible athlete who is ridiculed by his teammates. Likewise he's not strong academically, so we're facing the "I can't do anything" attitude. How should we deal with this?

Be there for him, and listen. Take time to work with him on his athletic abilities. Talk with

his coaches. Locate a young college student with a heart for ministry who would possibly work with your son to help him develop not only his athletic ability, but a heart for Christ at the same time. Focus on your son's strengths. What does he do well? Keep looking until you come upon something at which he excels, especially traits that our world does not hold up as "valuable" but which please our Heavenly Father. This is a great opportunity to teach your son that while life is not fair, God is available and has a plan for him (Jer 29:11).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

LIFE AND WORK

Restoration to faithfulness

Revelation 3:1-5, 14-21

By Michael Jones

In the Bible Exposition Commentary, Warren Wiersbee opens his discussion on this chapter with a word for churches today. He states, "...these messages from Christ belong to our day as well as to the first century. Churches are people, and human nature has not changed. So as we continue our study, we must not look on these letters as ancient relics. On the contrary, they are mirrors in which we see ourselves."

As we study this passage you may see yourself or your church. If this is the situation, I would like to encourage you to



Jones

see the good news behind the warnings Christ gives these two churches. The good news is that there is a way to restoration with our Lord and Savior. This restoration involves recognizing the truth, repenting, and living in fellowship with Christ.

Recognize the truth (vv. 1, 14-17). These two churches, Sardis and Laodicea, had great reputations and thought of themselves as great churches. Sardis had the reputation of being the "alive" church, and Laodicea had the reputation of being successful and wealthy. The fact of the matter was that

God knew the truth about each of these churches. In fact, Sardis was not "alive." Christ said they were "dead" and called them to "wake up." As for Laodicea, they were not rich and were in need of much. They were actually, "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked." God knew the truth.

God also knows the truth about not only our churches, but our lives as well. We need to examine our lives and our churches to see if we are deceiving ourselves just as Sardis and Laodicea were deceiving themselves. We need to ask Christ to allow us to see ourselves as he sees us. In doing this, we will recognize the truth, which is the first step in restoration.

Repent (vv. 2-3, 18-19). Both churches were asked to repent

for their ways. Sardis needed to repent for their complacency because they had fallen asleep, and Laodicea needed to repent for their authentic ways. If they did not repent, they would face the Lord's judgment. This judgment was out of love with the goal of bringing them back to where he wanted them to be.

After recognizing the truth about ourselves or our church, we must also repent. We must turn from our ways and become who God desires us to be.

Live in fellowship with Christ (vv. 4-5, 20-21). Christ's desire for both of these churches was to be able to live in fellowship with them. His call for repentance is also his call to bring the churches back into fellowship with him. This was his goal and desire.

God also desires us to live in fellowship with him. Once we

have repented, this is what happens. We are back in a right relationship with him, fellowshipping with Christ. As Christians and church members, we can help our churches to be restored to fellowship with Christ. Christ commanded a "few" in Sardis who still had fellowship with him. When we individually live in fellowship with Christ, we are equipped to help our churches restore its fellowship with Christ.

Remember, just as Wiersbee states, "Churches are people and human nature has not changed," these messages are "mirrors in which we see ourselves." Do you see yourself or your church in these passages? If so, recognize the truth, repent, and enjoy living in a renewed fellowship with Christ.

Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.

also points out that in their arrogance, they destroy themselves.

He then points to three Old Testament examples; Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

Cain failed to honor God in worship. Balaam sold out God's people for money. Korah led a rebellion against Moses and the earth opened up and swallowed him in fire. Jude is saying just as God took care of these three problems, he will take care of these false teachers.

Recognize false teachers (vv. 8, 10-13).

Verses five through 19 give a detailed description of false teachers, comparing them to angels who have fallen. A key component of this description is in verse eight; they reject authority and speak against heavenly leadership.

The writer of Hebrews instructs believers to submit to "those who have rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls." (Heb. 13:17) What a contrast.

Jude wants his friends to understand that these false leaders act out of ignorance. He

fashion at the appropriate time. Their false teaching was two fold. It concerned the way they lived, and what they believed about Jesus. Their lifestyle is described as licentiousness, which is to say, anything goes. Their teaching about Jesus was denial of his exclusive claim to Lordship. Still today many cult groups do the same, excusing immoral behavior and saying Jesus is not the only way.

Keep yourself in God's love (vv. 20-23). Jude's final advice is, stay in love with Christ. There is not much in this life we face that a close walk with the Lord will not provide the needed difference.

In God's love, the believer can help strengthen the doubting, present the lifesaving Gospel to the lost, and even show mercy to the one defiled by false teaching and wrong living. In the end, love conquers all.

White is a member of First Church, Clinton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be on guard

Jude 3-4, 8, 10-13, 20-23

By Carl M. White

We do not know who Jude is. There are three possibilities. One, Judas the Apostle. Second, an early leader in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:22). Finally, the half brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55). Many Bible scholars prefer choice three, though there is really no convincing evidence one way or the other.

Just as we do not know who Jude is, we do not know to whom he was writing. Some scholars believe this letter was written to the same group of Christians as 2 Peter because the problems addressed are the same. However, it is just as likely another group of believers facing a similar situation.

Whoever Jude was, and

whoever his audience was, this short letter is one of the inspired books of Scripture, and its message is as relevant today as it was then. We, too, must "contend earnestly for the faith."

Contend for the faith (vv. 3-4). The phrase "the faith," is of course the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jude felt inspired by the Holy Spirit to encourage this group of believers to hold fast to the truth of the Gospel that has been set and is not subject to change.

This is what is meant by the phrase, "once for all delivered to the saints." The truth of the Gospel was revealed in the work and ministry of Christ, and was in the process of being



White

handed down through the development of the New Testament. It is not subject to new inspiration.

There will not be a new set of scriptures bought down from heaven or dug up from the earth on gold or silver plates.

Revelation is a closed affair, not an open ended one.

The Gospel has been delivered, "once for all."

Jude makes an interesting observation in verse four. False teachers have "crept" into the fellowship, people marked long before hand for destruction by God.

Some read in this a kind of predestination that says God has picked people to be condemned, even to be false teachers who mislead. However, it just as easily means that while the leaders of the church didn't notice these rascals slipping into the fellowship, God did. He knows everything, and he will handle it in the appropriate

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Basis of Our Authority

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

By Lynn Jones

We often hear firms advertised as being the "authorized dealer" for a certain product. If you are a Christian, you are an "authorized dealer" of the Gospel. You have been authorized to represent Jesus Christ in the world and to share the good news of the gospel with everyone.

Resurrection (vv. 1-7). At dawn on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (the mother of James, Mark 16:1) came to the tomb of Jesus. According to Mark's account, they came to anoint the body of Jesus.

When the women arrived at the tomb, they did not see the body of Jesus. Instead, they



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saw an angel. When the angel appeared, there was an earthquake, the stone rolled away from the door of the tomb, and the angel's brilliant appearance shocked the men who had been sent to guard the tomb.

The angel told the women not to be afraid. He told them that Jesus was risen, and he invited them to see the place where Jesus had been. He then instructed them to go tell Jesus' disciples that he had risen from the grave.

When you are watching a ball game, there usually comes a point in the game when the outcome has been decided. At that point, I will usually say, "Well, that's the ball game." If

I had been present when Jesus was placed in the tomb, I probably would have said that. If so, I would have been dead wrong. The cross and the sealed tomb were but preludes to the display of the greatest victory of all. We can thank God that we serve a living Lord.

Revelation (vv. 8-10). Good news doesn't walk. It runs! As the women hurried to tell the good news of Jesus' resurrection, the resurrected Lord met them on the way. He greeted them and told them not to be afraid.

Jesus told the women to carry a message to his "brethren." The disciples had forsaken Jesus and had fled from his trial and his cross, but he still called them "brethren." He cared about them and wanted them to know of his resurrection.

Jesus repeated the instruc-

tions given to the women earlier by the angel (v. 7). The disciples were to go into Galilee where they would see him. The women then went to the disciples with news of the empty tomb, the brilliant angel, and the instruction to go into Galilee. They went, however, with greater news. They had seen the risen Lord.

We all need to experience the presence of Christ in our own lives. We can do that as we renew our personal devotional lives. A soldier in a battle zone was on his knees praying. A chaplain saw him, went over to him, and said, "May I help you?" The soldier responded, "Thank you, sir, but no, I am being helped." As we experience the living Lord in prayer, we can know the greatest help of all.

Commission (vv. 16-20). In keeping with the instructions given, the eleven disciples went northward into Galilee to meet Jesus. When Jesus

appeared to them, he declared that "all power," or "all authority" had been given to him "in heaven and in earth." The authority of Jesus knows no bounds. It extends throughout heaven and earth. His resurrection had been a powerful proof of that authority and power over all threats.

On the basis of Jesus' authority, he commissioned his disciples to carry the good news of the Gospel to everyone on earth. He not only gave the commission, but he also gave the assurance that he would go with his disciples to help them carry out this commission.

It's been said that some people think the "great commission" is what you pay your real estate agent. Instead, it is the commission that Christ has given us to share the Gospel with our world. In what ways are you involved in carrying out the "great commission?"

Jones is pastor of First Church, Booneville.

Cost of following Christ high in Chechnya

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — Alexis Sitnikov had already been kidnapped twice and his ribs had been broken. He had a clear shot at a visa to the U.S., thousands of miles from those tormenting him — but with all its dangers and faults, Grozny, Chechnya, was still home and he could never leave the Baptist church he served as pastor.

When his friend Ivan Ivanovich encouraged him to leave, Sitnikov refused. He wanted to stay and build up the church in Grozny. "I will stay here and work for the Lord's glory," Sitnikov told his friend.

"He is a very committed Christian," said Ivanovich, one of the Grozny church's leaders, whose job is similar to minister of missions in an American church.

In October 1998, Sitnikov was kidnapped again. Now, more than a year after his abduction, his church family still prays for him regularly, even though the chances of his being alive seem to be diminishing.

After four kidnappings in the past year, the church reacted quickly in August when fighting broke out between Russia and Chechnya.

All but 40 of the church's 100 members evacuated to a neighboring city in another area of Russia's North Caucus region. The 40 church members remained hidden inside Chechnya's capital, which was center stage for the fighting.

Since the Soviet Union crumbled in 1991, Chechnya has become one of the most dangerous places on earth — particularly for Christians. Chechnya declared its independence in 1991, a claim Russia has never fully recognized. After the second war there this decade ended in 1996, Russia granted Chechnya limited political autonomy.

Tensions reheated in August when Chechen militants seized control of the Russian republic of Dagestan. In September, after a wave of bombings around the Russian capital of Moscow, Russia invaded Chechnya in what it called a terrorist-fighting operation.

But the new wave of violence was just the latest in a series of setbacks for Grozny Baptist Church.

In October 1998, Muslim extremists kidnapped Sitnikov, who was pastor of the church. In March, the next pastor, Alexander Kulokov, was kidnapped. Two weeks later, a church member saw

Kulokov's head on display in a booth at the market in Grozny. Since then, a young deacon and a teenage girl have been kidnapped from the church.

The kidnappings aren't limited to evangelicals. In the past several years, a handful of Russian Orthodox priests also have been kidnapped.

Ivanovich credits most of the problems to a sense of lawlessness in the republic.

"It's not because they are Chechens. These criminals are coming down from the mountains and causing problems with both Chechens and Russians," Ivanovich said. "Most Chechens aren't like this and don't agree with what they are doing."

Recently more barbarous acts have been revealed. Anja Hrykin, a 13-year-old girl from the church, was found by Russian soldiers after being held for three months by Muslim extremists who beat, raped, and starved her.

She now is recuperating in the care of other refugee members of the church.

Ivanovich and his wife, ethnic Russians who have lived their entire lives in Grozny, haven't escaped the escalating violence in their hometown either. Both have faced loaded rifles and been accosted by both Chechen militants and Russian soldiers over their ethnic identity. Although they are both Russian, they've been confused with Chechens before.

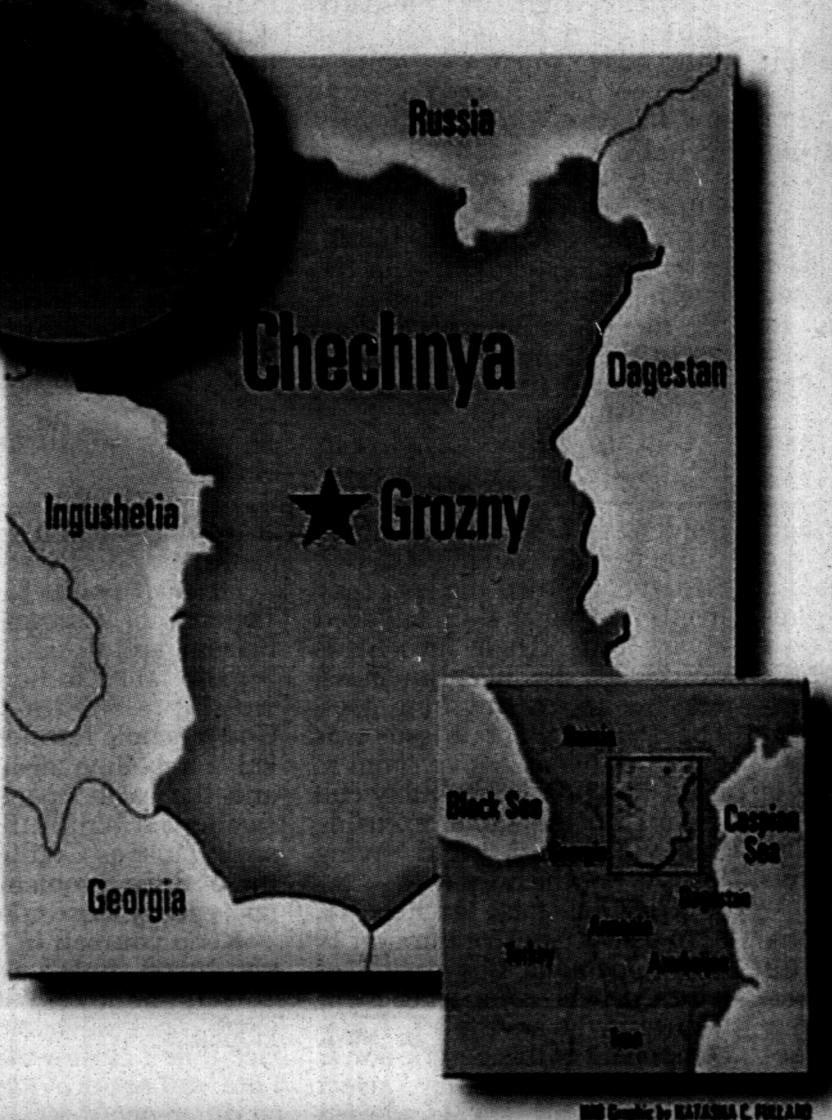
Whatever hardships they will face, Ivanovich said his church hopes to return to Grozny and rebuild.

Many Chechens will return from refugee camps to a destroyed homeland. Therein lies a new ministry for the church, Ivanovich said.

"The Bible says your fruit shows your faith," he said. "That's what we believe."

"We want to return to Grozny and show people we don't hate them for what they have done. We love them and want to help them."

Ivan Ivanovich is a pseudonym used to protect the identity of this church leader.



Believer hopes war will bring Chechens to Christ

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — Mosah always wanted to be a good father and husband. All his life he dreamed of the perfect family. Growing up with a father who regularly beat his mother, Mosah longed for a more stable home.

However, drugs were getting in the way. An addiction to homemade Russian heroin made Mosah do things he never would have done otherwise. Then, just like his father, Mosah began beating his wife.

"I always believed if a man beats his wife, he demonstrated his own weakness and so did everyone else in my family," Mosah said.

Mosah's wife and sister-in-law, whose husband also abused drugs, didn't know how to help their men. They talked to a neighbor, who was a Russian evangelical Christian. She told them about Christ's power to heal their husbands' hearts and change their drug-ravaged lives.

When Mosah heard what the woman had told his wife, he was both intrigued and surprised. "All most Chechens know about Christianity is

what they have seen in the Russian Orthodox Church," Mosah said. "They think it is all about the sign of the cross, but few have heard that they can have a relationship with God."

When he went personally to talk to the neighbor, he was amazed by how she spoke of a personal relationship with God.

"I don't remember what she was saying, but I was listening very carefully," Mosah said. "It was like a light went on in my heart."

Before he left, the lady handed him a Gideon's New Testament in Russian. He read it fervently. "Even when I was on drugs, I read the New Testament. I couldn't stop reading," Mosah said. "Finally I read the whole thing, including the Gospel of Matthew in one night."

Then he found the Psalms in the back of that tiny New Testament. As he flipped to Psalm 6, he began to relate to David. Just like David asked God to heal him, Mosah asked God to heal his drug addiction.

"I began to pray to Jesus and that's the day I repented," Mosah said.

The healing didn't happen

overnight. As he continued to struggle with drugs, his mother and father finally disowned him. For a Chechen, whose life is built around his family, that was the ultimate wake-up call.

"That was just unbearable," Mosah remembered. "I came to the conclusion that I was no longer able to do any good for the people I loved."

Then Mosah's son was born severely disabled and everyone told him his drug abuse had caused his son's birth defects.

"That was the last straw," Mosah said. "I thought, 'I should just kill myself.'" He stuck a rifle barrel in his mouth but just couldn't pull the trigger.

One night, he stumbled home drunk and found several Christian men there to meet him. Seeing he was in no condition to talk, they decided to leave. Mosah stopped them at the door and demanded they pray for him.

The men prayed for Mosah, and invited him to a church service later in the week. For the next several days, he had no drugs or alcohol. By the time he went to the service, he was weak from withdrawal symptoms.

Church members circled Mosah, laid their hands on him and prayed. "I could feel their hands burning against me," Mosah said. "I told Jesus, 'Unless you help me, I won't live until tomorrow.'"

Mosah's 13 years of drug addiction were over. With his new commitment to Christ, he felt a passion to share his faith with his fellow Chechens.

"To share Christ with Chechens, you have to do it in a Chechen way," Mosah said. "For example, when I am talking to Chechens about Christ, I don't tell them I am a Christian; I tell them I am a follower of Jesus. When they hear the word Christian, they think of Russians and the Orthodox."

Now he hopes recent turmoil in his homeland might make the Chechen people more likely to turn to God. "[The Chechen people] now feel that God is hurt by what they have done," Mosah said.

"I really hope Chechens will seek God now."

Mosah is a pseudonym used to protect the identity of this Christian.

Bibliocipher

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GVH YAT BHMIT VG BVR

YAMY DHLFBTYA

EMWQMYLVF AMYA

MXXTMHTR YV MWW

KTF.

YLYOE YNV: TWTQTF

Clue: Q = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Four: Forty-One.